

CONGRESSMAN **JESSE L. JACKSON JR.**  
PROUDLY SERVING THE 2nd DISTRICT OF

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**REP. JACKSON: MEASURE OBAMA AGAINST FDR, NOT REAGAN**

***State of the Union Address Must Include Substantive Jobs Plan***

Today, Congressman Jesse L. Jackson made the following statement:

"On January 11, 1944, in the midst of World War II and on the heels of the worst economic disaster in the history of the country, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed a new 'Economic Bill of Rights.' Among the new rights that President Roosevelt proposed were the right to a 'useful and remunerative job,' the right to a 'good education,' the right to a 'decent home,' and the right to 'adequate medical care.'

"Today, 67 years to the day later and as we face wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and another economic calamity, we must push for a similar set of rights to allow the American people to reach their full potential. I have proposed a set of Constitutional amendments to do just that - and will reintroduce them in the coming weeks.

"Republicans have consistently turned to the Constitution in order to embed their most important priorities. Under then-Speaker Newt Gingrich, the Republican-controlled Congress voted on at least nine proposed Constitutional amendments. In the last two Democratically-controlled Congresses, we took zero votes on Constitutional amendments. We

need to aim for the rhetorical and substantive heights of the Constitution on behalf of the American people.

"What President Roosevelt was really acknowledging in proposing his "Economic Bill of Rights" was the inadequacy of the Presidency to fix some national problems, such as widespread unemployment. After 11 years in office fighting to pull the country out of the Great Depression, Mr. Roosevelt found that there was only so much he could do.

"My sense is that President Obama is realizing the same thing. While we've made some progress on the economy and we all hope that the unemployment problem will improve, there are constitutional limitations on our President and our Congress.

"Following the leadership of President Roosevelt, I will soon reintroduce the following amendments, in the hopes of creating a more perfect union:

- H.J. Res. 29 - Guaranteeing the right to an education of equal high quality
- H.J. Res. 30 - Guaranteeing the right to health care of equal high quality
- H.J. Res. 31 - Guaranteeing the right to equality and to reproductive rights to women
- H.J. Res. 32 - Guaranteeing the right to high quality housing
- H.J. Res. 33 - Guaranteeing the right to a clean and safe environment
- H.J. Res. 34 - Guaranteeing progressive taxation
- H.J. Res. 35 - Guaranteeing the right to full employment and balanced growth

"I hope President Obama and my Republican and Democratic colleagues will join me in a movement to improve the Constitution on behalf of all Americans," Congressman Jackson concluded.

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